

Today's News - Tuesday, January 28, 2014

- ArcSpace brings us a "fine" healthcare center in Madrid + Meyer's thoughtful take after visiting tsunami-ravaged residents in Japan (read it!) + Kipnis's "A Question of Qualities" is a "collection of mind-blowing theoretical essays" by "one of today's most piercing and playful architectural thinkers."
- Ferro's "When Starchitects Attack": a round-up of high-profile feuds (and look for a second wave of MoMA/AFAM punditry after tonight's star-studded pow-wow - 'er forum - in NYC).
- Beanland ponders architecture under attack: "demolition is often a farce...because it's often an expression of power; ultimately, some men just love to swing their wrecking balls."
- Kennicott has issues with the 9/11 Museum's \$24 admission price: aside from it being so high, it is "a bit worrying from a museum-design perspective: To make the experience attractive, there is a built-in dynamic to make it entertaining."
- Wainwright doesn't have a problem with streamlining building regulations, but Cameron's "great policy bonfire will lead to a future of substandard homes," but once he "sifts through the ashes he might realize how useful some of that 'green crap' was."
- Hume is relieved Toronto decided not to bid for the 2024 Olympics: the 2015 Pan Am Games "are more our style" - they may not transform the city, but "they're cheaper and quieter" and "the legacy will be decent" (minus the "hubris, corruption, and cultural decadence").
- Chicago's mayor is going to launch a design competition to make the city "North America's city of lights," but an environmental group outlines "numerous, substantial reasons why creating frivolous light shows like this are a bad idea."
- Jacobs ponders why more women aren't designing skyscrapers, and offers "three rising architects who may just crack that glass ceiling."
- Flint was skeptical at first, but comes around to why the Rauch Foundation's ParkingPLUS Design Challenge makes sense as a good "first step toward retrofitting the suburbs."
- A fascinating look at grand plans going back to 1929 that Toronto never built - "great ideas that fizzled."
- McClellan explores Lake|Flato's new San Antonio museum: it "quietly does what all great architecture should: It weaves into its context forcefully, yet in a sophisticated, legible manner that neither panders nor subjugates."
- Snøhetta updates its plans for San Francisco's waterfront arena (smaller arena and more public space included).
- Why H&deM was logical choice for Hong Kong's M+ museum: "who else was deemed worthy to design and build it except for the world's penultimate architectural stylists, nay, rebels" who "bested their peers."
- Pasternack weighs in on Oikios's (very pricey) Intercontinental Davos hotel: the "golden egg" is an "architectural stunner" (the cows are cute, too).
- Lubell cheers a "stunning shortlist" in the competition to design the UC Santa Cruz Institute of Arts and Sciences on one of the most stunning sites in the country.
- If a young NYC-based firm on a star-studded shortlist for an "arts cluster" in Arnhem, the Netherlands, wins, it will "have officially entered the big leagues."
- Eyefuls of winners in AN's Best of Design Awards> Landscapes.
- Ferro has fun with a "weird-looking playground that could make your kids more creative" (we wanna go play!).
- Call for entries: Submissions for MIT's journal Thresholds 43: "papers and projects that complicate and provoke the idea of 'scandal.'"

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-- Estudio Entresitio: Villaverde Municipal Health Care Center, Madrid, Spain...certainly one fine result.
-- After the Tsunami, at the 'Women's River'; ...former residents – and architect initiatives such as Architecture for Humanity
-- disagree with the hasty reconstruction plans made up by the central government. By Ulf Meyer
-- "A Question of Qualities: Essays in Architecture": Jeffrey Kipnis' collection of mind-blowing theoretical essays...a remarkable insight into the mind of one of today's most piercing and playful architectural thinkers. By Martin Søberg

When Starchitects Attack: 4 High-Profile Feuds: MoMA's new expansion isn't the first commission to cool relations between famous architects. By Shauncy Ferro -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro/Tod Williams Bille Tsien; Louis Sullivan/Frank Lloyd Wright; Peter Eisenman/Frank Gehry; Daniel Libeskind/David Childs - Fast Company / Co. Design

Architecture attack - what's with our appetite for destruction? It's strange how our attitudes to destroying art and destroying architecture are so different...demolition is often a farce, with decisions made by people who know nothing about architecture. That's because it's often an expression of power too; ultimately, some men just love to swing their wrecking balls. By Christopher Beanland - Independent (UK)

9/11 Museum sets admission price at \$24: ...a bit worrying from a museum-design perspective: To make the experience attractive, there is a built-in dynamic to make it entertaining...It just doesn't feel right that someone has put a price tag — a high one, at that — on a museum charged with interpreting one of the few genuinely national traumas of our time. By Philip Kennicott -- Michael Arad/Peter Walker; Snøhetta; Davis Brody Bond - Washington Post

What Cameron's bonfire of the building regulations will do to our homes: Ripping up regulations will lead to a future of substandard homes with cramped rooms and small windows: The Code for Sustainable Homes...likely to be in the firing line...It will only be when sifting through the ashes of the great policy bonfire...that he might realise how useful some of that "green crap" was. By Oliver Wainwright- Guardian (UK)

Modern Olympics make losers of us all: If what's unfolding in Sochi is any indication, Toronto can live without the Olympics...2014 Games smacks of hubris, corruption, nationalistic striving and cultural decadence...The 2015 Pan Am Games are more our style. They're cheaper and quieter...the legacy will be decent...They won't transform the city, but will leave it marginally better off. On the other hand, neither will they increase stress or debt. By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

Environmental group takes dim view of Mayor Emanuel's night light plan: ...was ridiculed for suggesting that Chicago be turned into "North America's city of lights" at the same time that Paris, the global "City of Light," has toned it down... "There are numerous, substantial reasons why creating frivolous light shows like this are a bad idea from an environmental perspective." -- Illinois Coalition for Responsible Outdoor Lighting- Chicago Sun-Times

A Tall Order: Why aren't more women emulating Jeanne Gang and building skyward? Here are three rising architects who may just crack that ceiling. By Karrie Jacobs -- Marlene Imdzian; Johanna Hurme/5468796; Denise Scott Brown; Julia Morgan; Nicole Dosso/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Marianne Kwok/Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates (KPF); Florencia Pita/Jacklin Hah Bloom/Pita & Bloom [images]- Architect Magazine

Why It Makes Sense for Long Island to Rethink the Parking Garage: A first step toward retrofitting the suburbs: ...Rauch

Foundation...hoped to spark a slow-and-steady transformation to transit-oriented development...ParkingPLUS Design Challenge...appropriately reflects how places like these will likely end up evolving... By Anthony Flint -- Roger Sherman Architecture + Urban Design; dub Studios; LTL Architects; Utile Inc. [images]- The Atlantic Cities

The five greatest ideas Toronto never built: From a 1929 scheme to give the downtown a Parisian flair.....A grand circle with an obelisk, an art deco shopping complex, a city museum, walks and gardens along the waterfront and, oh yes, the Downtown Relief Line....were already a gleam in planners' eyes in 1929...great ideas that fizzled. -- Larry Richards; Joe Berridge/Urban Strategies; Ken Greenberg [images]- Toronto Star

Crit> Briscoe Western Art Museum: Kevin McClellan explores Lake|Flato's newly unified museum on the San Antonio Riverwalk: ...quietly does what all great architecture should: It weaves into its context forcefully, yet in a sophisticated, legible manner that neither panders nor subjugates. -- Ten Eyck Landscape Architects [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Playing Ball: Snohetta reveals updates to San Francisco's waterfront arena: ...plans now include an entertainment pavilion and waterfront plaza...also reduced the size of the Golden State Warriors arena... [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Museum by Herzog & de Meuron to rise in Asia: ...landmark museum devoted to architecture and design in West Kowloon in Hong Kong...who else was deemed worthy to design and build it except for the world's penultimate architectural stylists, nay, rebels...bested their peers—which included Renzo Piano and Toyo Ito—in the selection process for M+. - Business Mirror (Philippines)

The Global Elite Are Sleeping Inside a Golden Egg in the Swiss Alps: Enveloped by 790 gold-colored undulating bands of steel...the new Intercontinental Davos is an architectural stunner...during the World Economic Forum...an architectural bauble with an unusually loud symbolism...a giant fortress chalet in the shape of a golden egg. By Alex Pasternack -- Oikios [images]- Motherboard

Stunning Site and Stunning Shortlist at UC Santa Cruz: ...the hottest RFQ in California: the UC Santa Cruz Institute of Arts and Sciences, a waterfront museum, research center, and innovation hub on one of the most beautiful campuses in the country. By SamLubell -- Steven Holl/TANNERHECHT; Tod Williams Billie Tsien/TEF; wHY design, Allied Works Architecture, Aidlin Darling Design, Jensen Architects with Ann Hamilton; Fong & Chan/Patka Architects- The Architect's Newspaper

SO-IL Among Shortlisted Teams for Major Netherlands Arts Project: If the New York-based firm wins the competition, it may have officially entered the big leagues: "It does feel a little bit of David and Goliath," says Florian Idenburg..."But we don't need so many stones." -- Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG)/Allard Architecture; NL Architects; Kengo Kuma & Associates; SO-IL/Architectuurstudio HH/ABT - Architect Magazine

Best of Design Awards> Landscapes: Some of the most exciting and innovative American architecture to be completed in 2013 fills out AN's first annual design award program. -- Thomas Balsley Associates / Weiss/Manfredi; Katherine Spitz Associates; !Melk [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

This Weird-Looking Playground Could Make Your Kids More Creative: ...responding to what's seen as the overly prescriptive, cookie-cutter nature of many of today's playground structures...a new movement in playground design has tended toward the abstract... By Shaunacy Ferro -- David Rockwell; Frank Gehry; Free Play; Oculus [images]- Fast Company

Call for entries: Submissions for Thresholds 43: Scandalous seeks papers and projects of all kinds that that complicate and provoke the idea of 'scandal' through scholarly discourse or inherently scandalous content; deadline April 30- MIT Thresholds journal

ANN Feature: What is "Quiet Design" and Why Should It Matter? Some Troubling Queries for Cathleen McGuigan and Sundry Fans of "Architectural Quietism." By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow

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